(a) the total amount disbursed by Government as on 31 October, 2009 to provide insurance coverage and financial support to farmers whose crops have been affected by insufficient monsoon in the year 2009;

(b) the number of farmers covered under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, so far; and

(c) the measure proposed by Government to rehabilitate those farmers who have been hit by the drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per provisions of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), admissible claims for Kharif 2009 will be known after receipt of yield data from the respective State Governments for which the cut off date is 31st January/31st March, 2010 depending upon the crop. Similarly, admissible claims under Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) are known after October/November. However, as on date claims amounting to Rs.39.23 crore for Kharif 2009 season have been settled by the implementing insurance companies under Pilot WBCIS.

13.47 crore farmers have been covered under NAIS since inception *i.e.* Rabi 1999-2000 to Rabi 2008-09 season:

The Central Government has taken several steps in assisting the States in tackling the situation arising out of drought in several parts of the country which, *inter-alia,* include release of Central Government share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Rs. 1990.3275 crore and approval of Rs.4073.785 crores out of National Calamity Contingency Fund which is meant for providing input subsidy to the farmers, provision for drinking water and fodder etc.; assistance to save the standing Kharif crops through provision of additional power from the Central pool and providing subsidy on diesel; assistance from Central Sector Schemes for better input distribution for kharif as well as rabi cultivation; providing technical know how through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA); allocation under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) for livelihood support; allocation of additional foodgrains and periodic monitoring and review at all levels of the Central and State Government on mitigation measures. The Government has also constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), which has been mandated to take decisions on policy issues and schemes required for effective management of drought/deficit rainfall and related issues.

Use of chemicals and fertilizers in agriculture

2491. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that frequent use of chemicals and fertilizers in agricultural operations will spoil the soil fertility and quality on the one side and cause some adverse effect in the produce on the other;

(b) if so, whether there has been a study to prevent this spoilage and the preventive measures taken, if any; and

(c) the demand and supply position of chemicals and fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Balanced and judicious use of chemicals and fertilizers such as nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassic fertilizers and registered pesticides, primarily used in agriculture in the country is not known to cause damage to soil health, fertility and crop produce. However, imbalanced and injudicious use of chemical fertilizers has been observed to have affected soil health and productivity in some parts of the country.

Details of preventive measures being taken by the Government for maintenance and improvement of soil health for enhancement of crop production are as follows:

(i) Encouragement to use organic manure and bio-fertilizers under schemes such as the 'National Project on Organic Farming' and the 'National Project for Management of Soil Health and Fertility';

(ii) Encouragement to soil test based use of fertilizers under the National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility; and

(iii) Training of farmers by organizing Farmers' Field Schools under Integrated Pest Management Programme.

(c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers *viz*. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/ de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilizers at State level. State Governments are responsible for distribution of fertilizers within the State.

The State-wise cumulative requirement (demand), availability and sales of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers during 2009-10 (April'09 to November'09) is given in Statement *(See* below). As can be seen, the availability of Urea, DAP and MOP has been adequate. There has been a little tightness in availability of complex (NPK) fertilizers because of low level of indigenous production and also as these can not be imported.

Statement

Cumulative requirement, availability & sales of fertilisers during the year 2009-10 (April '09 to November '09)

State	UREA			DAP			MOP			Complex		
	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Sales	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Sales	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Sales	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	1930.00	1714.04	1605.45	800.00	776.85	733.53	460.00	377.47	344.07	1550.00	1230.53	1175.21
Karnataka	1005.00	1052.11	989.94	605.00	665.25	653.55	380.00	421.24	380.94	795.00	648.71	627.04
Kerala	125.50	119.76	112.28	28.25	25.48	24.81	124.00	116.96	112.95	137.50	138.61	135.53
Tamil Nadu	765.00	638.60	633.32	331.00	245.69	244.56	399.00	329.15	313.61	263.00	397.16	390.83
Gujarat	1295.00	1187.34	1162.07	685.00	640.28	607.72	151.00	172.83	170.01	339.80	305.66	278.29
Madhya Pradesh	1125.31	1023.33	1011.93	804. 15	884.93	814.30	109.65	101.40	94.58	334.48	194.24	178.68
Chhattisgarh	465.50	428.09	421.99	153.90	193.63	193.02	69.45	60.74	58.71	114.45	73.09	69.70
Maharashtra	1859.00	1743.38	1679.56	889.70	1140.09	1125.55	361.90	450.65	412.70	1065.00	681.49	657.64
Rajasthan	928.00	817.43	794.48	595.00	560.33	548.48	25.00	33.44	28.76	123.80	72.14	71.42
Haryana	1260.00	1067.49	1047.11	650.00	630.78	629.43	42.00	58.96	58.87	35.00	34.87	32.75
Punjab	1530.00	1606.86	1551.94	750.00	775.87	774.02	81.00	79.27	74.50	55.00	49.93	45.78
Himachal Pradesh	45.00	33.46	31.88	0.00	2.65	2.65	2.50	2.65#	0.00	35.00	19.43	19.29
Jammu & Kashmir	105.67	56.54	53.61	66.75	35.05	35.03	19.67	2.33	2.32	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	3300.00	3199.80	3010.98	1300.00	1309.32	1289.06	225.00	213.57	193.54	650.00	527.51	504.66
Uttarakhand	132.50	140.67	124.90	26.00	34.32	33.05	12.00	2.80	2.80	42.50	21.73	21.62
Bihar	1210.00	1074.62	1063.01	335.00	299.30	284.41	155.00	110.62	100.89	255.00	176.48	164.32
Jharkhand	160.00	116.69	111.41	100.00	70.48	66.55	14.50	8.55	8.11	46.00	48.78	44.57
Orissa	440.00	397.18	365.38	148.48	186.39	169.89	132.21	89.06	85.17	219.10	176.29	164.17
West Bengal	715.77	699.22	642.85	307.40	327.48	322.21	247.40	257.97	254.02	524.80	530.63	514.97
Assam	150.80	158.88	154.97	19.40	18.81	18.72	71.40	47.21	43.07	5.50	4.89	4.89
All India	18939.92	17336.32	16628.95	8627.05	8831.40	8578.45	3115.96	2945.42	2750.82	6624.68	5349.34	5118.44

Dispatch on 6.12.2009.